

Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov  
July 16, 2020

Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee and the  
Judiciary Committee

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We are writing to inform you that we are not in favor of eliminating qualified immunity for police officers. Coming from a police family that is serving and has served the citizens of Waltham for a combined years of service of fifty-nine years this change would be disastrous. The elimination of or changing the qualified immunity that has been enjoyed would be detrimental to all officers serving Massachusetts. The Waltham Police Department has always maintained a high level of professionalism achieving Massachusetts Accreditation which requires the department to adhere to rigorous standards of training in all aspects of policing. Without qualified immunity for police officers the exodus from the profession would be immense. The numbers of citizens that are eligible to enter the police profession have been declining over the years. People are reluctant to become a police officer in today's atmosphere in the United States. Qualified immunity does not protect unlawful acts by police officers. Qualified immunity protects police officers who are conducting lawful acts in a lawful manner that could result in unforeseen consequences. We implore you to leave the qualified immunity as it currently stands. Improvement and training in all vocations is helpful, tearing it apart is not the answer.

Thank you,

Brenda & Paul Juliano

